

Community Climate Action Email April 2014

Welcome to the Community Climate Action newsletter, with all the latest news, events and resources in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. A special hello to new subscribers and thanks to those who have contributed items this month.

Highlights this month include details of some local Green Open Home events in the area and an invitation from Derbyshire County Council to comment on their Climate Change Charter. See the Local News section for more details on both.

Do you have a home with eco features? Have you cut your bills through energy efficiency measures? It's not too late to open your home as part of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Open Homes event. Contact Caroline Harmon for more information: caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk

If you or your group is able to help publicise the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire event please let us know. We can send you posters and fliers and you can make use of resources on our website: www.everybodys-talking.org/ecohomes/resources-2014

Follow us:

Twitter: @CCANNetwork

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ccan.network

Got Any News?

If you have anything you'd like us to include in the April e-newsletter please send it to us by **Wednesday 30th April**: ccan@mea.org.uk

A. Local Events

Local Eco Home Open Events

There are two Open Home events taking place in the area in the next couple of months:

1) Nottingham Green Door Tour

Tues 22 & Sat 26 April

Organised by Nottingham Energy Partnership

This event will run in the form a tour. Attendees will see a selection of Nottingham's retrofitted homes all in the space of just a few hours. We will visit three areas of the city that are home to a variety of archetypes and energy saving measures. Energy improvements will include solid wall insulation, biomass boilers, solar power, rainwater harvesting and much more.

Please note there are only 13 available seats per tour, places work on a first come first serve basis. We can only take residents who live in Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire and a maximum of two people per household.

Secure your place by contacting Alison Mouncy: alison.m@nottenergy.com / 0115 985 9057. <http://nottinghamgreendoortour.greenopenhomes.net>

2) Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Eco Homes Open Event

10th-18th May 2014

Organised by Marches Energy Agency

Homes in West Bridgford organised by Transition West Bridgford

Homes across the two counties will be opening their doors to show you what they have done to save energy and the planet. Everything from draught proofing, loft insulation and efficient lighting to solar panels and solid wall insulation will be on display. This year we have a barn conversion and two homes that are mid-refurb giving you an opportunity to see how the home is being retrofitted. If you would like to open your own home, contact us to find out what support we can offer:

caroline.harmon@mea.org.uk.

If you would like to visit a home, keep an eye on our websites www.everybodys-talking.org/ecohomes / www.greenopenhomes.net/.

You can also find out more about some of the homes opening from West Bridgford Eco Houses: www.wbecohouses.co.uk

Find Out About Fracking

Fri 4th April, 7pm for 7:30pm

Memorial Hall, Wirksworth, DE4 4DS

Free, donations towards hall hire welcome

Organised by Wirksworth Transition Group

A meeting to find out more about fracking with speaker Brian Davey, an ecological economist working with the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability and Harminder Singh, a lecturer from Warwick University. There are no plans to frack under Wirksworth yet, but members of Wirksworth Transition group want to inform themselves about fracking wherever it might happen.

Frack Free Nottinghamshire Meeting

Tues 8th April, 7pm

Govindas Restaurant, Thurland Street, Nottingham

Dart Energy have now moved a drilling rig onto a site in North Nottinghamshire. The next Frack Free Nottinghamshire meeting will be an action planning meeting to discuss ideas and assign people to implement them for how the groups move forwards with raising awareness of the dangers of fracking. All welcome.

Email frackfreenotts@gmail.com Website: <http://frackfreenotts.org.uk>

Meeting Regarding Planned Turbine Near Duckmanton

Thurs 10th April, 7pm-9pm

Meeting Room 2, The Assembly Rooms, Chesterfield

Organised by Transition Chesterfield

Paul Rea from Energy4All will talk about plans for a wind turbine, funded by a local energy co-operative, near Duckmanton

www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Derbyshire Community Foundation Funding Workshops

Erewash: Erewash CVS, Granville Centre, Granville Avenue, Long Eaton. 14th April, 9.30am – 12.30pm

High Peak: Buxton Methodist Hall, Buxton. 28 April 2014, 10am-1pm

Bolsover – 19 May 2014

Chesterfield – 12 May 2014

Derbyshire Dales – 12 May 2014

Chesterfield – 14 May 2014

Bolsover – 19 May 2014

These events give you the opportunity to gain an insight into the work of the Foundation and how they can help you with funding requirements. The session will cover hints and tips for applying for funding in general and there will be a chance to discuss your particular project and which of the funds administered by the Foundation is suited to your needs. To book a place please contact Misbah Ramzan on 01773 514850.

There and Frack Again Cycle Ride

Sat 19th April (proposed date)

Frack Free Nottinghamshire is organising a cycle ride from Nottingham to the Daneshill Anti-Fracking camp to raise money for the camp.

Email: frackfreenotts@gmail.com

Derbyshire Eco Centre Spring Fair: Woods and Water

Sat 26th & Sun 27th April, 11am-4pm

Free

A lively event with a vibrant atmosphere and a range of interesting demonstrations, activities, stalls and entertainment. The Spring Fair is a free community event featuring:

- Everything possible that is linked to our local woods and water
- A bustling market street of stalls
- Demonstrations skills and crafts, with a chance to try them
- Music and other entertainment
- Solar-powered cinema showing of Derwent Valley films
- A host of exciting courses to enrol on, at discounted prices
- Craft demonstrations and fair to celebrate Derbyshire creativity
- Locally sourced food and bar
- Free activities for families and adults

This year, the Saturday will also feature the exciting launch of the DerwentWISE project. This is a heritage lottery funded project to celebrate the landscape of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ecocentre

Warm, Wet and Windy

Thurs 1st – Sun 4th May

Cromford Wharf, Cromford Mills, Mill Lane, Cromford, Matlock, DE4 3RQ

This annual festival will feature a wide range of exciting events to raise awareness of climate change. Saturday's Family Day will include films, talks, music, stalls, demonstrations and displays. Lectures will cover key climate change and energy issues from some of the country's top expert and science communicators.

Full timetable: <http://cromfordmills.org.uk/content/warm-wet-and-windy-2014>

Derbyshire Climate Change Charter Consultation Event

9th May, 10am-12:30pm

Derbyshire Eco Centre, Porter Lane, Middleton-by-Wirksworth, DE4 4LS

Organised by Derbyshire County Council

Derbyshire County Council is currently developing a county wide Climate Change Charter. As part of this process the council will be consulting with, businesses, community groups and partners. Therefore Derbyshire County Council would like to invite you to attend a community consultation event. Your input into the process is vital to the council, you will help to shape the Charter and inform how it will support Derbyshire in cutting carbon emissions and preparing our County for the effects of climate change.

The morning will consist of an introduction and presentation of the draft Charter and what Derbyshire County Council and the Derbyshire Partnership Forum would like to achieve. This will be followed by informal discussion sessions around the key priority areas within the Charter.

If you would like to take part in the consultation please email:

climatechange@derbyshire.gov.uk to book a place. Places are limited so will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, but we ask that no more than two representatives per organisation attend to allow as many groups as possible to take part.

If you would like more information about the Climate Change Charter or the consultation event please contact Alison Wheeldon on 01629 538356 or email climatechange@derbyshire.gov.uk

Fundraising for Beginners

Thurs 12 Jun 2014, 10.00am - 1.00pm

High Peak CVS, Dunbar House, 105 Buxton Road, Whaley Bridge

Cost: Voluntary & Community Groups without paid workers £10; Voluntary & Community Groups with paid workers £30

Organised by High Peak CVS

An introductory session for those with little or no experience of making applications for grant funding. The task of applying for grants can seem awesome. This session will provide you with a step-by-step process including where and how to find out who to apply to, how to make your cause look attractive to the funder, and inspire you with confidence to have a go!

<http://highpeakcvs.org.uk/events.asp?>

B. Local News

Community Renewable Energy In New Mills?

Transition New Mills are running a quick poll to see if local residents would like more community renewable energy in the area. Inspired by other schemes around the country they're wondering if local people are interested in hydro, solar, wind or community heat projects.

Poll: <http://polldaddy.com/poll/7925408/>

Contact the group if you're interested in helping make community renewable energy happen in the area: <http://transitionnewmills.org/contact-us/>

Community Allotment Gardening Club

Growing Spaces are helping people to grow more in New Mills through a community gardening project. Initially they are looking for a small team of people to set up and run the allotment. Ideally a mix of gardeners and none gardeners to enable skill exchange. The team will share produce and occasionally help with visiting groups. Toilet facilities and a meeting room are available. Membership is £2/week.

If you think you may be able to commit some time to this project contact Beardwood Farm. Furness Vale, SK23 7QF; Tel. 01663 749038; Mob. 07793982648; Email beardwoodnlp@gmail.com

Nottinghamshire Community RePaint Scheme

This scheme accepts donations of unwanted paint at four Recycling Centres: Beeston, Calverton, Newark and Warsop. Site staff sort through these and give away reusable paint to community groups, schools and charities registered on our scheme. Register: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/waste/recyclingadvice/communityrepaint/

Throughout the summer months, the scheme organises public open days to give away reusable paint to Nottinghamshire residents. These happen monthly between April and October: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/waste/recyclingadvice/communityrepaint/paintopendays/ Nottinghamshire residents can book a timeslot by calling Nottinghamshire County Council on 0300 5008080.

Derbyshire Eco Centre Summer Courses Brochure Available

Derbyshire Eco Centre's Summer Course brochure is out now and is jammed packed full of exciting course. Topics covered include solar hot water systems, building a compost toilet and growing organic fruit and veg. There also half day events for families during half term where children go free when accompanied by a paying adult.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/ecocentre

New Nottingham Greeniversity Group

Nottingham now has its own Greeniversity. Greeniversity is an online tool that communities can use to get skills-sharing. Find skill share classes or offer to run one: www.greeniversity.org.uk/nottingham

The national Greeniversity project is currently running a competition to win a mountain bike or an ethical board game: www.greeniversity.org.uk/win-a-range-of-prizes

Derby Incinerator Bank Letter

Derby Friends of the Earth have produced a template letter for people who would like to contact the banks helping to fund an Incinerator in Derby. The group are concerned that the Incinerator will cause 'Deaths Brought Forward' by 2-4 month in seriously ill people.

www.foe.co.uk/groups/derby

C. National News

EVENT: Green Homes Sheffield

12th April – 18th May

Several chances to visit all kinds of energy efficient homes in Sheffield.

<http://sheffield.greenopenhomes.net>

EVENT: Loughborough Energy Efficient Homes

17th- 18th May

Visit homes across Loughborough and Charnwood which have had energy efficiency measures and domestic renewables installed.

<http://loughborough.greenopenhomes.net/>

RESOURCE: Draught Proofing: 'Project In a Box' Available

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) have put together a draught-proofing demo kit, all packaged up in a big box for community energy groups to borrow. You can use it to run a workshop about different ways to draught-proof a home, to show all the options to an individual, or to get better informed yourself.

The kit comes with samples of draught-proofing materials for floors, windows, doors, chimneys and other gaps around the home, along with full instructions about how to install each material. CSE have a couple of kits to give away to community groups who are likely to make good, ongoing use of them. Otherwise, you can hire one for an event – email communities@cse.org.uk to enquire.

RESOURCE: Renewables in the Rural Landscape

Centre for Sustainable Energy has published a set of resources for teachers to engage sixth form pupils with renewable energy issues. Four lesson plans help pupils to think about the issues behind renewable energy development and debate the various impacts and benefits to a rural community.

Download: www.cse.org.uk/renewables-in-the-rural-landscape

NEWS: Green Deal Cashback Levels Increased

Householders installing solid wall insulation are now able to claim up to £4000 cashback thanks to changes to the Green Deal Cashback Scheme.

The government are hoping more people will take up energy efficiency improvements as a result of increasing the levels of cashback available for a number of measures. The scheme helps people to install energy efficiency measures by providing them with money back on the contributions they make towards improvements.

- Up to £4,000 is now available for solid wall insulation, up from £650
- Up to £1,000 for anyone needing 'room in roof' insulation, increased from £220
- Up to £650 for households installing double glazing, from £320

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is also extending the scheme. Applications for Green Deal Cash-back can now be submitted up to the end of June, with a further three months for households to install energy efficiency measures and redeem cash-back vouchers, giving them more time to take advantage of the scheme.

DECC has also raised the cap on cash-back payments from 50 per cent of a household's contribution towards costs, to two thirds, meaning more people will be eligible for the maximum cash-back level.

www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-back-for-people-carrying-out-green-deal-home-improvements

NEWS: Youth Community Energy Catalysts

Centre for Sustainable Energy has teamed up with the UK Youth Climate Coalition to run a project aiming to connect 20 young adults with 20 community energy mentors from across England. Youth Community Energy Catalysts aims to help young adults to develop skills and understanding of sustainable energy, while at the same time

helping community energy groups to benefit from the assistance of a young and enthusiastic volunteer. The young adults will participate in a free training course before being matched with an energy group in their local area.

If you're between 18 and 29 and interested in taking part, or a member of a community group interested in mentoring, find out more at www.cse.org.uk/ycec

NEWS: Changes to Regulations May Affect Financing for Community Energy Schemes

Two recent financial regulatory announcements could affect the ability of community energy projects to raise income and offer an attractive return to their investors.

Firstly, the Chancellor announced in the budget that the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) tax relief currently available to renewable energy projects will be removed from projects qualifying for ROCs and RHI. This is because EIS is intended to stimulate investment in high-risk projects, and those receiving payments in the form of ROCs or RHI are not deemed high-risk.

Secondly, a new set of rules has been published by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) stating that companies that want to raise money through selling shares will need to show that they are promoting their investment to those who really understand investment and the risks involved, otherwise known as 'sophisticated investors'. This has come about due to the rise in crowdfunding schemes across a whole range of project types, although community energy schemes will certainly be caught up in it. However if your organisation is set up as an IPS then you are exempt from the changes.

More about the changes and how they might affect your activities:
www.cse.org.uk/news/view/1821

FUNDING: Peoples Millions Open for Applications

The Big Lottery Fund and ITV have launched the People's Millions public voting competition for 2014. This year organisations can apply for up to £50,000 for projects that help communities to enjoy, as well as transform, their local environment. The competition is open until 13 May.

People will get the chance to vote for those projects they want to see funded in the region, when they are screened on the ITV regional news between 25th & 27th November. Projects categories include 'to make the local environment cleaner, safer or greener'

www.peoplesmillions.org.uk or 0845 0 10 11 12

FUNDING: Community Chest Grant Scheme for Community Buildings

Groups running community buildings in the Midlands can apply for up to £1000 for simple but effective energy efficiency improvements to reduce their energy costs and the carbon emissions of their buildings.

A total of £50,000 is available. The grant is being administered by the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Who can also provide expert guidance to help groups carry out an audit of their buildings. Eligible measures include insulating loft spaces, installing energy monitors, draught proofing windows and doors, fitting effective heating controls and installing low energy lighting.

The application process is simple. Groups are asked to submit a short application form and provide quotes for recommended improvements, as well as completing an audit of their building. Guidance and an application pack are downloadable from www.cse.org.uk/wpdcc or email wpdcc@cse.org.uk for more information.

AWARD: Observer Ethical Awards – New Community Energy Category

Nominations are open for the Observer Ethical Awards and this year there's a new category for community energy projects. The winning group will receive £2000 toward their project or a community fund. Judges are looking for creative projects that generate, purchase, manage or reduce energy in their local community. To nominate go to

www.theguardian.com/observer-ethical-awards

SHARE OFFER: Drumlin Wind Energy

Shares are available for a scheme which will install one or two additional turbines at Ballyrobert, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim and Cavanakill, Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh. The offer will close on 30 April 2014.

www.dumlin.coop

SHARE OFFER: Engi Co-operative

Egni ('Energy' in Welsh) is a co-operative currently looking to install solar panels on seven community buildings in South Wales. These new systems will total 105 kWp of solar PV, saving 1,000 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the panels. We are currently offering shares to fund these systems, with a target total of £155,000. Members are projected to receive a 4% return on their investment, as well as a potential 50% tax break on the amount invested.

<http://egni.coop>

National News in Brief

- Sheffield Campaign Against Climate Change are recruiting a Climate Campaign Worker: <https://sites.google.com/site/scaccweb/>
Big Six Energy Suppliers Face Ofgem Investigation: www.theguardian.com/business/2014/mar/27/ofgem-competition-commission-big-six-watchdog-fuel-bills

Ofgem told to control the Big Six:

www.nottenergy.com/news/whats_happening/ofgem_told_control_the_big_six_energy_giants_or_face_being_cut_off/

- Offshore renewables could generate billions for the British economy:
<http://publicsectorenergy.memberise.com/news/view/offshore-renewable-energy-could-generate-billions-for-british-economy-says-report-579>
- Government plans QR codes on energy bills:
<http://publicsectorenergy.memberise.com/news/view/government-announces-plans-to-put-qr-codes-on-energy-bills-577>
- More women working in renewables than in other energy sectors:
<http://publicsectorenergy.memberise.com/news/view/more-women-working-in-renewables-than-in-any-other-energy-sector-says-survey-556>